

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Contemporary Economic Problems

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** ECO 1530

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will analyze current economic problems while critically evaluating solutions to these problems. Students integrate basic economic concepts and terminology to problems surrounding such issues as the environment, distribution of resources, health care, crime, market power, poverty, discrimination, government price controls, and international trade. This course is not a substitute for ECO 2610-2620.

**Eligibility:** ENG 1510 without supports or Corequisite: ENG 1510 with supports.

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**General Education Requirements Met**

**SUNY**

Social Sciences

**JCC**

Global Perspectives

Scientific Reasoning

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Using an economic perspective, generate different options to deal with various social, economic and global problems, and further analyze the implications of the suggested solutions to those problems.
  2. Describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  3. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  4. Demonstrate awareness of global issues and the impact of individual and collective decisions on life around the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Global Perspectives]
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**Topics Covered:**

- Economic Concepts: opportunity costs, Factors of Production, Production Possibilities
  - Supply and Demand: market forces, market equilibrium, market changes- Application of price controls : price ceilings (rent controls) and price floors (minimum wage)
  - Market Forms: Pure competition, monopolistic competition, oligopolies, monopolies- implications of markets: monopoly power (Microsoft, Wal-Mart)
  - Macroeconomic Concepts: GDP, unemployment, inflation, recession- - analysis of current situation
  - Federal Government: fiscal policy, budget deficits- what is currently being done?
  - Monetary Policy: Federal Reserve, interest rates- what is the current situation?
  - International Trade: imports and exports, trade deficits, trade agreements, protectionism
  - The environment: externalities, problems and solutions
  - Healthcare: problems and solutions, private pay, government programs, universal healthcare
  - Economics of Crime: costs of crime, crime prevention programs
  - Education: human capital, school reform issues
  - Poverty and welfare: measuring poverty, government programs
  - Energy Issues: OPEC, alternative energy options
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**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)

- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

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**Effective Date:** Fall 2023